

Pritchard, Genj. D.

Drawer 4A

Generals (Union)

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# Civil War Officers Union

Benjamin D. Pritchard

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# an Gazette.

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either case did he make any effort to secure the nomination. He was in the republican state convention in 1878, when he was nominated for treasurer, but knew absolutely nothing about the land commissioner nomination till he heard of it while in Kalamazoo upon business. In 1884 he would undoubtedly have been nominated for governor of Michigan, but refused to be a candidate against the late David Jerome of Saginaw because the latter had served but one term and Mr. Pritchard had been closely associated with him while treasurer in conduct of state affairs. When the present fourth congressional district was formed, many friends in Allegan and the other counties well urged him to try to go to congress, but he declined all their importunities. He served many years as a member of the Allegan school board, but otherwise never was willing to hold local office.

In 1870 Gen. Pritchard organized the first National bank of Allegan, was chosen president, and as such he remained until 1905 when he disposed of his interest and organized the First State bank, of which he was also chosen president and which remained until his death. Under his residency the First National grew to be

ters and three brothers. Of these only Mrs. Lavinia Burton of Garrettsville, Ohio could be present. The others are Mrs. Frank Morey and Porter and Frank Pritchard of Warren, Ohio, and Edward Pritchard of Cleveland, all of whom were too aged and infirm to make the journey to Allegan. Other relatives and close family friends attending were Mrs. Elizabeth Pardee of Garrettsville, Ohio; Mrs. J. D. McAfee and son of Cleveland; Bentley Kent of Chagrin Falls, Ohio; Messrs. and Mesdames Frank E. Martin of Detroit and L. S. Burton of Lansing; Messrs. Frank Gates and William Frue of Hopkins; Mrs. Lorenzo Webber of Portland, Mr. Bernath Sherwood of Grand Haven, and Mrs. Pearl Moore Gray of Grand Rapids.

The passing of Gen. Pritchard is an important event in the history of Allegan because he had so long, in so many ways, and so actively been concerned in its affairs. He was a man of very strong convictions upon every subject in which he felt any interest and seldom had the least hesitation in expressing them. In politics he was at all times an ardent Republican, and for many years was chairman of the county committee and took active part in campaigns by speaking. As to the temperance question, he was always emphatically opposed to the saloon and always combatted it in every way. He was never a member of any Christian church, yet he was a deeply religious man in thought and had a firm faith in God as revealed through Jesus Christ; but he could not accept certain dogmas and theories, and deemed it not wise to give tacit adherence to them by means of church membership while not actually accepting them in belief. He assisted in maintaining churches and was an attendant upon church services as a rule, sabbath days, until his infirmity of deafness prevented enjoyment of them. He led an unblemished moral life, and his personal rectitude was as marked while in the army as when out of it. One of the finest compliments the writer ever heard for Mr. Pritchard was spoken by the late Harlan P. Dunning, one of the troopers of company L, when he said: "Gen. Pritchard in the army was just as we see him here at home; and you know we were not all that way in the army." For many a year Gen. Pritchard's well-known form with its fine dignity will be missed and sadly missed. 'Twill be as long as shall survive any of those who until now have greeted him day by day and regarded him properly as a man of extraordinary merits in many ways; of unusual ability in business; as a most faithful of fathers; and as most exemplary in his private life. The regret and the grief expressed for him have been as genuine as they were universal.

The soldier, the citizen, the man, have passed hence in full faith of a better life; and his memory and his example remain to inspire respect and emulation among all those who ere soon must follow.

#### Sowersby-Wells Wedding.

Thanksgiving day a quiet wedding occurred at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wil-

## THE CAPTURE OF DAVIS.

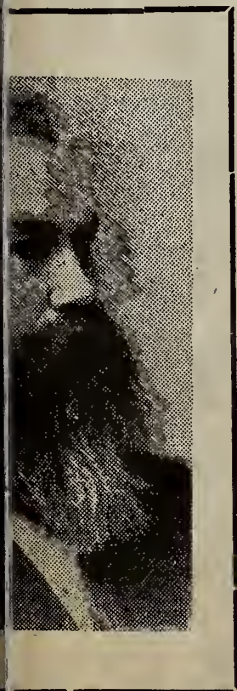
### STORY OF COL. PRITCHARD'S EXPLOIT.

History of the Closing Act of the Civil War as Related by Gen. Pritchard Some Years Later in Answer to Many Wholly Erroneous Accounts Given at Time of Davis' Death.

WHEN in December, 1889, Jefferson Davis died, many grossly exaggerated claims were made, and many wholly false, as to who effected his capture and under what circumstances. Very few of these gave credit to either the right man or the right command, and still less related the circumstances with anything like truthfulness. This induced the writer to ask Gen. Pritchard to make a full statement of the affair with citations from his official reports. He had often been asked to do this by some of the most influential newspapers of the country, including Harper's Weekly, but his modesty was such that he declined them all and would not even send his photograph for the making of an engraving. Yet perhaps because of the absurdly or maliciously false accounts, he acceded to Mr. Reid's request, who wrote the subjoined article and published it in the Gazette of Dec. 21, 1889. It was widely copied by the papers of the country, and inquiries for it continued long after it was possible to supply it. Deeming the matter of interest still, particularly in connection with the death of Mr. Pritchard, though it was by no means his chief military achievement, the account is reproduced in full, as follows:

Knells and lamentations over the passage of Jefferson Davis to a bar of judgment which will be more just than are his fellow-men of whatever mind, have for two weeks filled that misguided part of the country which followed him in treason to a beneficent nation. It is well that his stormy spirit at last has that repose it would not take in this world, and well to cease, over his bones, the acrimony that continually developed about his flesh.

But his death renews curiosity as to the events which, with a large element of the ludicrous, ended his active career—his capture while trying to flee from his capital to the fabled and foolish "last ditch." This incident has special interest to people of this part of Michigan, for the fortunes of war gave to Michigan troops the honor of closing the bloody drama by seizure of its chief instigator. Like many striking events, this has been the subject of much dispute as to who deserves the credit for its consummation. Fortunately, though, the records are clear and perfect as to the one chiefly concerned, and the doubt exists, or an effort to create one has been made, only as to some of the minor parti-



the most important financial institution in the county. His name was justly regarded as a guaranty of wisdom and integrity in business affairs.

Besides his banking interests Mr. Pritchard directed the work upon his large farm southwest of the city three miles, and had many investments in lands and securities.

In 1864 Col. Pritchard married Miss





Report of district No. 2, Valley, for the month ending Nov. 22. Days taught 20; school attendance 226 days; average daily attendance 11; percentage of attendance 80.4; boys enrolled 4, girls 6. Total 10. Those who received certificates of award for no longer being tardy are Albert are Boris and Vladimir Goren, Nell and Tom Albright, Theodore and Edna Goren, and Edna Goren. Those who were given the award for no longer being tardy are Pearl and Harold Gillett. Teachers and pupils extend a cordial invitation to anyone interested enough in their work to visit them. Lisle B. Derman, instructor.

Read the advertisement "Remember Why" of the First National bank of Illinois in this issue. It should be of interest to all.

Read the advertisement "Reason Why" of the First National Bank of Allentown in this issue. It should be of interest.

## MARTIN

Heam and daughter Lila of Pennville, spent last week at the home of Eli Heam; and on Friday Mr. and Mrs. Enders and daughter and Mrs. Reed and daughter all

## 10

The ladies' aid will meet with Mrs. Catherine Spotts, Dec. 5.

## DEFINITION

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